

When was the last time you thought about Hazardous Waste?



Missouri Department of Natural Resources

Facts on the Hazardous Waste Fee Extension

Twenty-five years ago, America was waking up to the environmental consequences of uncontrolled waste management. Every state, including Missouri, was learning to deal with toxic waste dumps and pits that contained industrial wastes. These wastes threatened public safety, polluted groundwater, increased the risk of uncontrolled fires or explosions and caused harm to human health.

The Missouri Department of Natural Resources assures cleanup of pollution, promotes safe waste management and prevents future exposure to hazardous waste. The department helps Missouri businesses comply with hazardous waste regulations and produce less waste. The cooperation and success of working with businesses, local officials and citizens promotes a healthy economy and environment.

The department's efforts to enforce Missouri laws are funded by fees paid by businesses and individuals that generate hazardous waste. The fees will expire Jan. 1, 2005 unless extended in the upcoming legislative session. The Hazardous Waste Category Fee and Land Disposal Fee generate \$2.6 million a year for clean up and protection efforts. A portion of the fees are required to obtain \$5.8 million a year in federal funds. If the fees expire, the state could lose a total of about 48 percent of its income for hazardous waste regulation, permitting and cleanup oversight.

Without a fee renewal, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency may take over many of these activities. Some will be reduced, others simply eliminated. Bottom line, the partnership that keeps Missourians safe from the threats of hazardous pollutants could be dismantled. Yet, not all Missourians are free from the risks of hazardous contaminants.



A department inspection led to the removal of more than 1,000 drums from this abandoned, fire-gutted warehouse on Hadley St. in St. Louis.

Benefits from the Fees

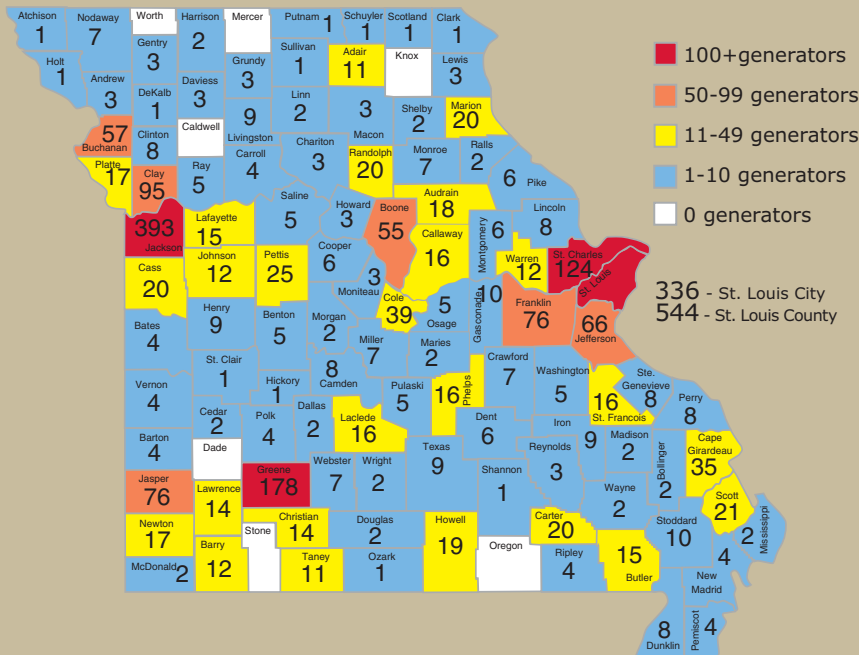
In the past 10 years, the department used hazardous waste fees to support the following activities that help protect human health and the environment:

- direction and oversight of cleanups at 757 hazardous waste sites;
- response to more than 6,000 complaints;
- nearly 14,000 registrations of businesses that handle hazardous waste;
- more than 4,000 inspections;
- 31 written permits and 142 certifications;
- proper management of more than 24,000 hazardous substance releases, 6,409 of which required an on-scene response by emergency response staff; and
- thousands of hours of technical assistance.



A tanker truck crashed in Marion County spilling nearly 2,500 gallons of hydrochloric acid. Nearby residents were evacuated, while a fishkill occurred in a nearby river. The department immediately dispatched Environmental Emergency Response staff to collect water samples from the impacted North and Mississippi rivers and direct the cleanup by a private company.

Number of Active Hazardous Waste Generators in Each County*



Hundreds of sites in communities across Missouri still require cleanup and thousands of businesses still generate, transport and manage hazardous waste. Missouri's future depends on a clean environment that supports economic growth and progress while protecting the health of its citizens.

To find out what you can do or for more information contact:

Missouri Department of Natural Resources

PO Box 176

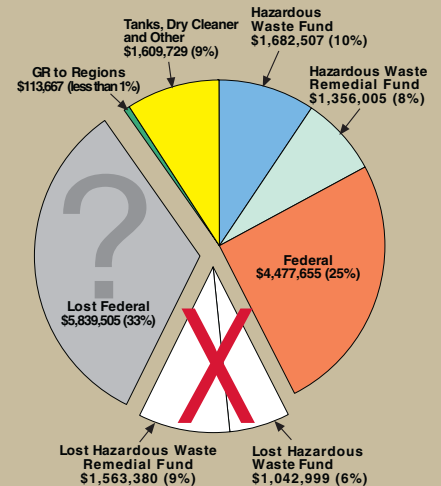
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Call: 1-800-361-4827 or

(573) 751-3176

Or visit the department on the Web at: www.dnr.mo.gov/alpd/hwp

Funding for Missouri's Hazardous Waste Efforts



Before



Before: This sinkhole at Winona Post Company was contaminated with pentachlorophenol and dioxin. Department staff coordinated with EPA to perform a rapid removal of contamination.

After: Department staff used an innovative on-site soil technique that restored this area for catfish, turtles, frogs and other typical aquatic life.



After



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